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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Auditor releases 2008 Fire Report

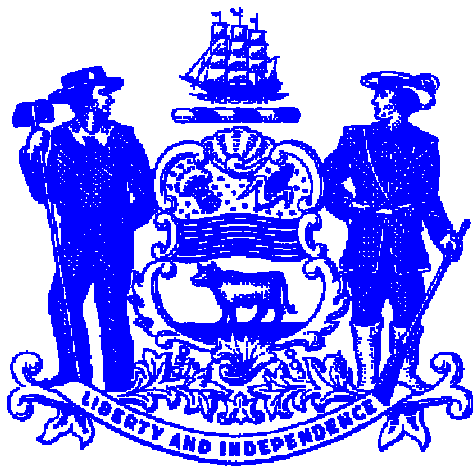
DOVER, DE – State Auditor R. Thomas Wagner, Jr. announced today that his office has released its 2008 Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Annual Report.

This report, compiled and completed annually by this Office, and released in conjunction with the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Annual Conference, serves as an informational tool to taxpayers, identifying the dramatic cost savings Delawareans enjoy as beneficiaries of a Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Service. This year, our Office estimates that it would cost over \$191M to replace the Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Service in Delaware with an Employed Statewide Service.

This report is available in its entirety on the State Auditor's Office website, and can be found under the "Press Releases" link.

(www.auditor.delaware.gov)

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Delaware Volunteer Fire Service 2008 Annual Report

**Completed by the Office of Auditor of Accounts
and released in conjunction with the
Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association
Annual Conference - September 2008**

**R. Thomas Wagner, Jr.
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It would cost \$191,446,743 to replace the Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Service in Delaware with an Employed Statewide Service

(excluding Wilmington)



Photo courtesy Chuck Snyder

SUPPORTING DATA

• State Population (approximate excluding Wilmington)	790,311
• Assessed Property Value (excluding Wilmington)	\$19,970,590,952
• Number of Stations Needed (per 10,404 persons)	76
• Total Employees Needed (25 per station)	1,900

PROJECTED COSTS

• Total Salary & Fringe Benefits (\$92,273 average/each)	\$177,809,600
• Total Equipment Purchases & Maintenance	\$10,608,000
• Total Building Purchases & Maintenance	\$1,672,000
• Total Employee Apparatus	<u>\$1,357,143</u>
• TOTAL:	<u>\$191,446,743</u>

Property Tax would Increase by \$7.55 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value for each household in the absence of the Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Service in Delaware



Photo courtesy Chuck Snyder

SUPPORTING DATA (all items per \$1,000)

• Property Tax Increase (Salaries & Fringes)	\$8.90
• Property Tax Increase (Equipment)	.53
• Property Tax Increase (Buildings)	.08
• Property Tax Increase (Employee Apparatus)	<u>.07</u>
Sub-Total	\$9.58

Less:

• Grants-In-Aid	(\$.32)	
• Insurance Tax	(1.33)	
• County Subsidies	<u>(.38)</u>	<u>(\$2.03)</u>

Total: \$7.55

Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Service in Delaware Save Delaware Taxpayers

\$150,804,734 *

(* Cost avoidance)



Photo courtesy Chuck Snyder

SUPPORTING DATA (FY 2008)

Cost of Full Time Employed Statewide Service ** \$191,446,743
(* ** see page 2 for details)

Revenue Sources

Grants-In-Aid	\$ 6,411,698	
Insurance Tax	26,597,541	
County Subsidies	<u>7,632,770</u>	
Total Revenue Sources		<u>\$40,642,009</u>

Total Cost Avoidance **\$150,804,734**

Volunteer Fire Service and Ambulance Training



Photo courtesy Chuck Snyder

Fire department training programs are conducted at the Delaware State Fire Training Center. Classes are generally offered on weekends so as to accommodate volunteer fire fighters and ambulance attendants without having to take time off from work. During FY2008 the Delaware State Fire School trained 12,637 students in Fire Department Training Programs and 5,378 in Basic Life Support Programs.

Report methodology & assumptions

Methodology:

The basis for this analysis is the paid fire service within the City of Wilmington. The following statistics were obtained from the City of Wilmington and used in this model:

• Wilmington's Population	74,453
• Number of Stations	7
• Population served per Station	10,636
• Number of Employees	173
• Employees per Station	25
• Average Salary & Fringes	\$93,584

Assumptions:

The following assumptions were made as a part of this analysis:

- The population served per station equals total population divided by the actual number of stations in service.

2008 Annual Fire Service Report

Compiled by State Auditor R. Thomas Wagner, Jr.

Report methodology & assumptions Continued:

- The total number of employees needed equals the total number of stations multiplied by 25 employees per station.

EQUIPMENT

The total equipment purchases and maintenance equals the total of the following (plus 20% supplies and 10% annual maintenance):

- \$375,000 per engine with 15 year life
- \$150,000 per ambulance with 4 year life
- \$75,000 per brush truck with 15 year life
- \$425,000 per rescue truck with 15 year life
- \$800,000 per aerial truck with 15 year life (Max. 2 per year)
- \$300,000 per tanker with 15 year life (Max. 2 per year)
- \$35,000 per utility vehicle with 10 year life (Max. 6 per year)

The number of existing companies (60), divided by equipment life expectancy, equals replacements each year, with the exception of aerial trucks and tankers which are required by approximately half of the companies for specialized needs.

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE

Total building purchases and maintenance equals \$400,000 per building (plus 10 percent annual maintenance) divided by 20 year payout.

EMPLOYEE APPARATUS

Total employee apparatus equals \$5,000 per employee with 7 year life of equipment.

SALARIES & FRINGE BENEFITS

The total of salaries and fringe benefits equals the number of employees needed multiplied by the average salary and fringe benefits amount of \$93,584.

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